

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 /159 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1039
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6169

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: SSOD: MILITARY EXPENDITURE REPORTING AND LIMITATIONS

REF: A. STATE 76583 B. STATE 97962

1. MEA (KASHI JAIN, THE MINISTRY'S DISARMAMENT SPECIALIST) HAD BEEN NON-COMMITTAL WHEN WE APPROACHED HIM FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL A. HE ASKED A STRING OF TOUGH QUESTIONS: WHAT PURPOSE WAS SERVED IN THE EXERCISE IF ONLY COUNTRIES WHOSE MILITARY BUDGETS WERE ALREADY LARGELY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAN PARTICIPATED; WHY SHOULD INDIA GET INVOLVED IN WHAT SEEMED TO HIM A CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE SOVIET BLOC; WHAT PROSPECTS WERE THERE OF WINNING SOVIET PARTICIPATION EVEN WERE SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE; HOW WOULD DISARMAMENT OBJECTIVES BE FURTHER IF THEY DIDN'T. JAIN PROMISED TO REPLY TO OUR DEMARCHE AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER CONCERNED GOI DEPARTMENTS.

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2. WHEN WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH JAIN TODAY TO PASS INFORMATION INCLUDED IN REF B AND TO ASK HIM IF THE GOI HAD MADE ANY PROGRESS TOWARDS REACHING A DECISION ON PARTICIPATION, HE REPLIED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF MEA SECRETARY VELLODI AT THE SSOD FIFTH PREPCOM NO CONCLUSION HAD BEEN REACHED. HE PROMISED TO GET OUR LATEST INFORMATION TO VELLODI WHEN THE SECRETARY

RETURNS FROM NEW YORK ON APRIL 24.

3. JAIN TENDS TO BE HIDEBOUND IN HIS VIEWS ON MOST
DISARMAMENT ISSUES, AND IS CLEARLY NOT SYMPATHETIC
TO INDIAN INVOLVEMENT IN WHAT HE CONSIDERS AN EAST-
WEST CONTROVERSY. IT SEEMS TO US THAT UNLESS WE CAN
CITE SOME PROGRESS IN GETTING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES
ON BOARD, AND CAN MENTION THEIR NAMES, THE GOI IS UN-
LIKELY TO TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR
US TO GET AND DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF ANY OF THOSE
WILLING TO TAKE PART CONDITIONAL UPON BROAD AND
REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATION, ASSUMING THERE ARE
SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AMONG THEM?
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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